

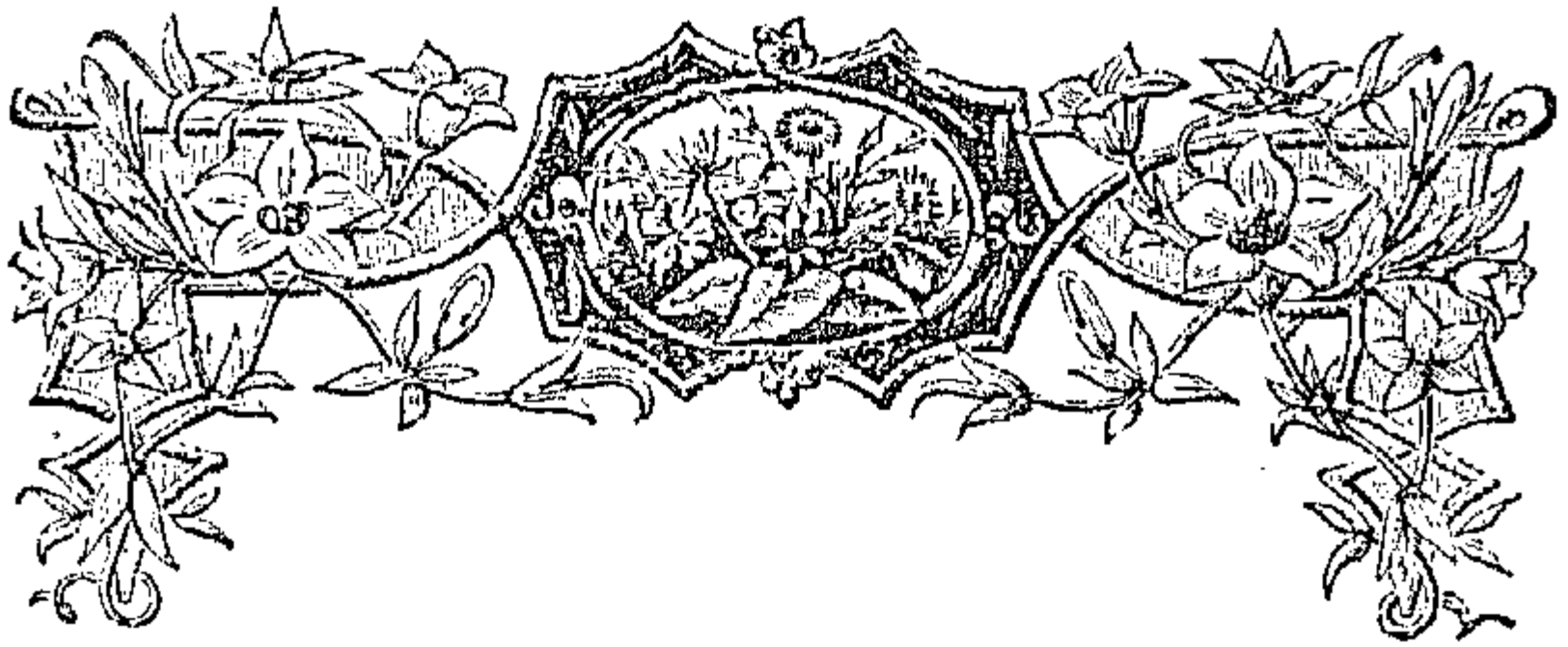


a community called ...

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A MOTHER'S ADVICE TO A YOUNG SEA-CAPTAIN.

MY DEAR SON: A mother's anxiety and solicitude have been powerfully awakened by the position in which a kind Providence has recently placed you. At no period of your life have I felt that you were assuming such fearful responsibilities as at the present. A mother's blessing goes with you, my son; a mother's prayers will encircle you. May the smile of your heavenly Father, who has thus far sustained and preserved you, encompass your way, and speed you safely across the pathless ocean. May he give you wisdom

and judgment so to direct the affairs of your floating habitation as to meet the approbation of your employers, and enable you to establish a reputation that will lay the foundation of future usefulness ! In this important step much depends upon making a right beginning. Let the fear of God, and your entire dependence on him, be felt and acknowledged. His way is in the sea ; his path is in the mighty waters ; his designs are unfathomable. Acknowledge him in all your ways, and he will direct your paths. Who so wise and capable of guiding as he who loves to be sought and confided in. "Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him." While you aim to be a thorough disciplinarian, let kindness be blended with firmness, always remembering to do to others as you would wish them to do to you in like circumstances. Guard well your temper, and never suffer it to get the better of your judgment, and thereby lessen yourself in the estimation of those in your employ. No doubt your patience will be sorely tried by the

variety of dispositions and characters you will have to deal with ; but though, at times, harshness and severity may seem to be necessary, lenity and kindness will more generally soften the asperities of the heart, and secure subordination ; for when dependents see they have your sympathy and friendship, it will go a great way toward securing their confidence and faithfulness. Suffer not the atmosphere in which you move to be poisoned by the breath of profanity, or tainted by the fumes of spirituous liquors. Discard them as the worst of evils ; for they are the inlets to wretchedness, and open the floodgates to destruction. Provoke not the God of heaven by oaths and imprecations, and thereby call down his judgments upon you. And remember, my son, to keep holy the Sabbath day ; at no season will my thoughts and prayers be more with you than on that sacred day. Study attentively and prayerfully God's holy word. The best and greatest men that have ever lived have prized it more than wealth, or fame, or pleasure. Said John Locke : " It

hath God for its author, truth for its matter, and salvation for its end." The more you study it, the more you will become interested in it; and the more you store your mind with its precious truths, the more you will thirst for heavenly wisdom. May you drink deep at this fountain of knowledge, draw rich resources from its heavenly wisdom, and your path be that of the just, shining brighter and brighter unto the perfect day!

You have been much on my mind during the past summer; your unsettled state has awakened my deepest sympathy and most fervent prayers; and I have importuned my heavenly Father to open a door for your usefulness, and provide a situation, whereby you might secure a competency for yourself and family. When your father announced the intelligence that a ship had been procured, and you appointed captain, I felt that God had heard my cry and answered my prayer; and I called upon my soul, and all that was within me, to bless his holy name. And now, in parting, let me beg you to love and rever

ence that munificent benefactor, who has done so much for you. Seek constantly his guidance and direction. As you view his wonders in the deep, adore and tremble; adore the wisdom and goodness of Him who has thus far sustained you, and kept you out of a miserable eternity; and tremble in view of a watery grave that may suddenly plunge you into the ocean of eternity. "Be wise to-day, 'tis madness to defer." "Now is the accepted time; now is the day of salvation." O that you *would* be wise! that you would give this all-important subject your serious consideration, and prepare for a peaceful life, a happy death, and a blissful immortality; and that the great disposer of events, who can do more and better for you than I can ask, or even think, may give his angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways, and in his own good time return you in health and safety to the bosom of your family, laden with the rich experience of his never-failing goodness, is the prayer of

Your truly affectionate Mother.

BE THOUGHTFUL.

Look at that tragic scene of Calvary. Christ was crucified for thee! that thou mightest become reconciled to God. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved!" So spake the apostle Paul to the affrighted and awakened Philippian jailer; and it stands good as applying to every repentant sinner: for to such Jesus says, "Come unto me, all ye that are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest!" "Look unto me and be ye saved: for I am God!" As God, he manifests his infinite willingness to save us on the simple condition of our looking to him; and this faith in Christ is the only condition on which salvation is suspended.

None who come in this way will come in vain, for mercy is free for all. Reader, have you come in this way? If not, you must. Perchance your "morning" of life is over, and the evening has come. The watchman now cries, "What of the night?" If both

these portions of life be allowed to pass away unimproved, the watchman will have uttered his voice to no purpose. Look back on past life, and view how it has been spent: perhaps in eating and drinking, and making life merry; in amassing wealth for a comfortable old age; in decorating the person instead of the mind. Vain pursuits! "for what shall it profit a man if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" The certainty that eternity follows time, is a proof that the soul's final destiny ought to be pursued as the grand object of life. In the pursuit of pleasure men gain a greater knowledge of evil; they may gain addition to their fortune; but in the eager pursuit of wealth the true riches are left uncared for. The pearl of great price is not sought.

But what have you lost? Is the morning of life past, and the evening nearly so? Have they been wasted in the pursuit of pleasure, wealth, honor, applause, and the wisdom of this world, while not a thought has been bestowed on eternity, not an hour given to the

concerns of the soul? What are you resolved to do for the future? Is time still to pursue its rapid, silent flight, and bear you onward on its wing toward an eternal world, while this world engrosses your attention and steals your heart? Can a human being, possessing an immortal soul, be so infatuated? O, if we could just draw aside the curtain that veils the future, and show you how many are suffering the effects of their folly in the torments of the lost,

“Unpitied and unrespited
Ages of hopeless end,”—

we might make some impression on your mind. But though this cannot be done, be assured that “whatsoever a man sows, that shall he also reap.” O, turn to Jesus! He is your Saviour. Look on him whom you have pierced! Take refuge in his bleeding wounds! Then the rapid flight of time to you will be no just cause of alarm.

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TRACT DEPARTMENT.